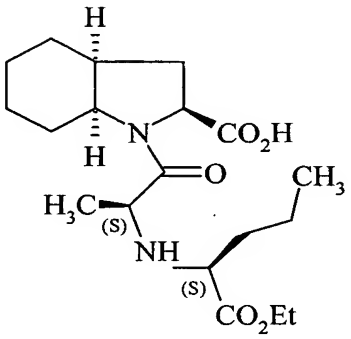
LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (CANCELED)

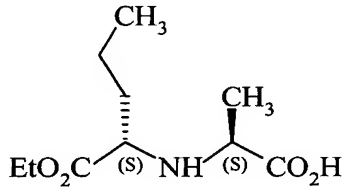
5. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of perindopril of formula (I) :



(I)

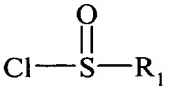
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ,

wherein a compound of formula (II) :



(II)

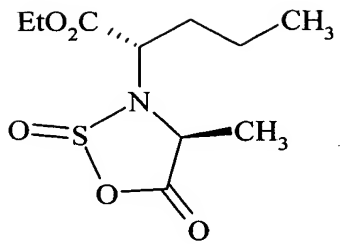
is reacted with a compound of formula (III) :



(III),

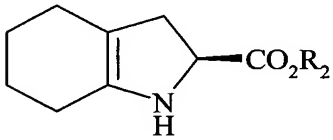
wherein R_1 represents imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl or tetrazolyl,

to yield a compound of formula (IV) :



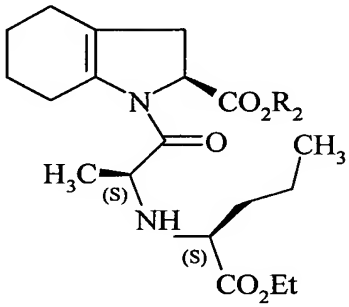
(IV),

which is reacted with a compound of formula (V) :



(V),

wherein R_2 represents hydrogen, benzyl or linear or branched $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl,
or an addition salt thereof with a mineral or organic acid,
to yield, after isolation, a compound of formula (VI) :



(VI)

which is hydrogenated in the presence of a catalyst,
under a hydrogen pressure of from 1 to 30 bars, to yield, after deprotection of the acid function where necessary, perindopril of formula (I), which is converted, if desired, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

6. (NEW) The process of Claim 5, wherein the hydrogen pressure in the hydrogenation reaction is from 1 to 10 bars.

7. (NEW) The process of Claim 5, wherein the catalyst is selected from palladium, platinum, rhodium and nickel.

8. (NEW) The process of Claim 5for the synthesis of perindopril in the form of its tert-butylamine salt.